



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/998,394	11/15/2001	Thomas Alois Kriz	AUS920010755US1	7314
35525	7590	04/06/2005	EXAMINER	
IBM CORP (YA) C/O YEE & ASSOCIATES PC P.O. BOX 802333 DALLAS, TX 75380			ELAMIN, ABDELMONIEM I	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2116	

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/998,394

Applicant(s)

KRIZ ET AL.

Examiner

A Elamin

Art Unit

2116

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-9,13-15,17,19-23,27,29 and 31-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4,10-12,16,18,24-26,28,30 and 36-38 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claim 1, 3, 5-9, 13-15, 17, 19-23, 27, 29, 31-35 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubala et al, US. Pat. No. 6,209,106 in view of Egle, US. Pat. No. 6,854,019.

2. Claims 1, 9, 13, 14, 15, 23, 27 and 35, Kubala teaches a method for managing a set of virtual clocks in a data processing system [*title, abstract*], the method comprising:

responsive to receiving a request to set a clock for a partition [*col. 9, lines 32-33*] in which the request includes a time, setting an offset [*abstract, col. 2, lines 44-56, col. 9, lines 32-36*]; and

storing the time and the offset in association with a partition [*abstract, col. 9, lines 29-30*].

Kubala fails to teach setting an offset equal to an elapsed time counter state of a counter.

Egle teaches a system for improving time synchronization accuracy between network user stations comprising a timer, to measure the time difference, which is started by a time pulse (Tp) and stopped by a time message (5) [*see abstract, col. 2, lines 6-9*].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Kubala to include setting an offset equal to an elapsed time

Art Unit: 2116

counter state of a counter, because it improves the time synchronization accuracy [*see Egle, col. 1, lines 51-54*].

3. Claims 3, 17, 29, Kubala teaches the request includes a date [*col. 9, lines 5-12*].

4. Claims 5, 19 and 31, Kubala teaches the partition is a logical partition within a set of logical partitions within the data processing system [*title, abstract*].

5. Claims 6, 20 and 32, Kubala fails to teach returning an acknowledgement after storing the time and the offset

However, the concept of returning an acknowledgement after storing an item is old and well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Kubala to include returning an acknowledgement after storing the time and the offset, because it indicates that the data has been stored correctly.

6. Claims 7, 21 and 33, Kubala teaches the time and the offset are stored in a non-volatile random access memory [*inherently, non-volatile RAM is used to store time and the offset*].

7. Claims 8, 22 and 34, Kubala teaches the setting step and the storing step are performed by a host processor in the data processing system [*abstract*].

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 2,4,10-12,16,18,24-26,28, 30 and 36-38 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

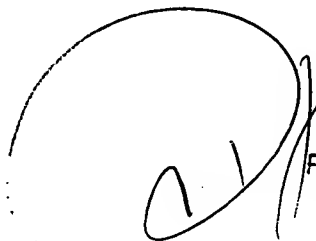
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A Elamin whose telephone number is (571) 272-3674. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-FRI 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne can be reached on (571) 272-3670. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A Elamin
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2116

April 4, 2005



A. ELAMIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER